

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14646

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS KN

SUBJ: DSP CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE

REFS: (A) TOKYO 12899 (B) TOKYO 12132

SUMMARY. CHARGE AND EMBOFFS MET OCTOBER 6 WITH DSP VICE CHAIRMAN RYOSUKU SASAKI, DSP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR KATSU KAWAMURA AND DSP SECURITY EXPERT (AND RECENT WASHINGTON VISITOR) EIICHI NAGASUE. CONVERSATION COVERED DSP MISSION'S RECENT US VISIT, DSP INTEREST IN JAPANESE SECURITY AND KOREAN SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DSP VISIT TO US. SASAKI EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE OVER MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (REF B). HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT HE AND FELLOW PARTY MEMBERS MAY HAVE OVERTAYED THEIR WELCOME, BUT CHARGE ASSURED THEM THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD FOUND DSP DISCUSSION INFORMATIVE. SASAKI SAID THEY HAD PROMISED NOT TO REVEAL CONTENTS OF SCHLESINGER
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CONVERSATION AT THAT TIME AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL DSP MISSION

RETURNED FROM US ON SEPTEMBER 10 THAT CERTAIN OF THEMES DISCUSSED HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO JAPANESE MEDIA.

2. NAGASUE SAID THAT DURING COURSE OF DSP MISSION'S US VISIT, THEY WERE SURPRISED BY UNITY OF US OPINION ON KOREAN ISSUE. SEN. MANSFIELD, FOR EXAMPLE, SPOKE OF US TROOPS REMAINING IN KOREA "FOR TIME BEING," WHICH HE DEFINED AS FIVE TO TEN YEARS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN SPOKE OF THEIR REMAINING "INDEFINITELY," DEFINING "INDEFINITELY" AS FIVE TO TEN YEARS. NAGASUE SAID THEY RAN INTO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NUANCES OF THINKING, BUT SAME GENERAL INTENT WHEREVER THEY WENT. HE ADDED THAT, IN GENERAL, DSP WAS VERY PLEASED WITH ITS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON. HE ASKED THAT THIS APPRECIATION BE PASSED ALONG TO DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND OTHERS RESPONSIBLE.

3. JAPANESE SECURITY. SASAKI NOTED THAT FOR SOME TIME DSP HAD BEEN URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AFFAIRS. IT WOULD PROVIDE A NECESSARY FORUM FOR DEBATE ON DEFENSE MATTERS. BUT LDP, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO DSP URGINGS, WAS STILL RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE FORMALLY COMMITTEE'S ESTABLISHMENT. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S COMMENT THAT HE THOUGHT HE DETECTED A MORE REALISTIC JAPANESE VIEW OF SECURITY AFFAIRS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS, SASAKI RECALLED APPEARANCE OF DEFENSE RELATED ARTICLES IN MAJOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS. THIS HE CONCEDED WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN POST-WAR HISTORY, BUT HE FELT JAPANESE WERE STILL CONSIDERING ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MORE EXTENSIVE DEFENSE DEBATE.

4. ON PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, SASAKI NOTED US AND JAPANESE APPROACH THEM FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS. US TENDS TO EMPHASIZE SIMILARITY OF US AND JAPANESE GOALS, DISCOUNTING NEED FOR EXTENSIVE SECURITY CONSULTATION OR DISCUSSION. FROM A JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, SASAKI SAID THIS SEEMS LIKE US SPRINGING ITS ALREADY DETERMINED STRATEGIC DECISIONS ON JAPAN AT THE LAST MINUTE. WHAT IS NEEDED, HE SAID, IS GREATER MUTUAL CONSIDERATION OF CONTINGENCIES THAT COULD ARISE AND AGREEMENT ON HOW BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD REACT.

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5. KOREA. ASKED ABOUT KOREAN ISSUE IN UNGA, THE CHARGE REPLIED IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO US. AN UNFAVORABLE VOTE ON KOREA ISSUE IN EITHER FIRST COMMITTEE OR UNGA PLENARY WOULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON US OPINION CONCERNING UN, AS WELL AS ON JAPAN AND ROK. SASAKI SAID DSP STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO HAVE FOUR-POWER DISCUSSION OF A KOREA SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT DSP HAD PROPOSED THIS IDEA SOME TIME AGO, BUT THEIR PROPOSAL HAD ATTRACTED LITTLE MEDIA ATTENTION.

SASAKI ADDED THAT, SINCE ORIGINAL CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BY MILITARY COMMANDERS, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA TO HAVE MILITARY COMMANDERS DISCUSS NEW CEASE-FIRE ARRANGEMENTS. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WAS OPEN ENDED AND WOULD PERMIT THIS APPROACH AS WELL AS OTHERS. CHARGE NOTED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT NORTH KOREA WAS PRESENTLY UNINTERESTED IN SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL AND THEREFORE PRC AND USSR WERE ALSO UNRESPONSIVE.

6. REPLYING TO SASAKI'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER USSR OR PRC HAS GREATER INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREA, CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT INFLUENCE WAS ABOUT 50-50, WITH BOTH SIDES RESTRAINING POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ACTION. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER SASAKI QUESTION, CHARGE SAID UNFAVORABLE US MEDIA COVERAGE OF CURRENT SOUTH KOREAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION HAD GREATER NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US POLITICIANS AND ACADEMICS THAN ON US POPULAR OPINION GENERALLY. CHARGE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENT VISITS OF US CONGRESSMEN HAD BROUGHT HOME TO PARK US SENTIMENT. SASAKI NOTED THAT JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF SOUTH KOREA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS WAS CAUSING ANTIPATHY IN JAPAN AND THAT MEDIA COVERAGE HERE GENERALLY FAVORED NORTH KOREA.

7. SESSION ENDED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL DESIRE TO RENEW CONVERSATION AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY.
SHOESMITH

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